

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /083 W
-----057469 101558Z /53

O R 101532Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8462
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LISBON
USNMR SHAPE
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR
DIA WASHDC
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, FR
SUBJECT: ELECTIONS 1978 -- LATEST UNPUBLISHED POLLS

1. EMBOFF HAS OBTAINED THE RESULTS OF THE LATEST SOFRES AND IFOP POLLS, TABULATED MARCH 7. THIS INFORMATION, WHICH CAME FROM A VERY WELL INFORMED JOURNALIST, SHOULD BE CLOSELY HELD AS ITS PUBLIC RELEASE BY THE POLLING ORGANIZATIONS AT THIS TIME IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED BY FRENCH LAW. SOURCE ESTIMATED THAT THE FIRST-ROUND RESULTS WOULD FALL BETWEEN THE PERCENTAGES CITED IN THE TWO POLLS.

2. SOFRES POLL: THE RESULTS OF THE SOFRES POLL ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PS/MRG	28 PERCENT	RPR	22 PERCENT
PS	21.5 PERCENT	UDF	20 PERCENT
EXTREME LEFT	2.5 PERCENT	OTHER RIGHT	3 PERCENT
TOTAL (LEFT)	52 PERCENT	RIGHT	45 PERCENT
ECOLOGISTS:	3 PERCENT		

GIVEN A PC ANNOUNCEMENT TO COOPERATE IN FAVOR OF THE LEADING LEFT CANDIDATE ON THE SECOND ROUND, A 70 PERCENT PC TRANSFER OF VOTES TO THE PS AND A 50 PERCENT PS TRANSFER TO THE PC, THE ABOVE PERCENTAGES YIELD A LEFT VICTORY OF 25-30 SEATS (ACCORDING TO SOFRES SIMULATION).

3. IFOP POLL: THE RESULTS OF THE IFOP POLL ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PS/MRG	31 PERCENT	RPR	22 PERCENT
PC	20.5 PERCENT	UDF	19 PERCENT

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DIVERSE LEFT	3PERCENT	DIVERSE RIGHT	2 PERCENT
TOTAL (LEFT)	54.5 PERCENT	RIGHT	43 PERCENT
ECOLOGISTS:	2.5 PERCENT		

4. ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCE, THE PC HAS TAKEN A FIRM DECISION FOR DESISTEMENT OR SECOND-ROUND COOPERATION (SEE SEPTEL FOR FULLER DISCUSSION). THE REASON GIVEN WAS THAT IT SIMPLY HAD NO CHOICE. GIVEN THE APPARENT LEVEL OF POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE LEFT AT THIS TIME, THE PC COULD NOT RISK BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR A POSSIBLE DEFEAT. SOURCE ALSO STATED THAT THE PC DECISION WOULD BE

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ANNOUNCED EARLY IN THE WEEK FOLLOWING THE FIRST ROUND IN
ORDER THAT CADRES WOULD BE MOBILIZED FOR MAXIMUM EFFORT
ON THE SECOND ROUND.

5. COMMENT: THESE ARE THE POLLS FOR WHICH WE HAVE OB-

TAINED RESULTS. WE CAUTION THAT THERE COULD WELL BE OTHERS WHICH GIVE DIFFERENT PERCENTAGES. ALSO, THERE ARE MANY OTHER FACTORS TO BEAR IN MIND IN INTERPRETING THE FIRST-ROUND RESULTS AND PROJECTING THEM TO THE SECOND ROUND. SEE PARIS 8205 FOR A DISCUSSION OF PITFALLS OF ELECTION ANALYSIS AND POLLS. IN SPITE OF THE POLLS AND A HIGHLY PROBABLE STRONG LEFT SHOWING IN THE FIRST ROUND, THE FINAL RESULT ON MARCH 19 STILL REMAINS AN OPEN QUESTION -- PARTICULARLY WITH NINE DAYS REMAINING BEFORE THE FINAL VOTE. THE ELYSEE HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THAT GISCARD HAS DECIDED TO MAKE A SHORT SPEECH THE NIGHT BEFORE THE FIRST ROUND, EMPHASIZING THE THEMES OF HIS SPEECH AT VERDUN-SUR-LE-DOUBS ON THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR FRANCE. THESE COMMENTS BY GISCARD COULD CONCEIVABLY REDUCE THE LEFT'S FIRST-ROUND VOTE. THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT OF THE LEFT'S FIRST ROUND WIN ON THE ELECTORATE IS ALSO HARD TO PREDICT. THE ELECTORATE HAS NEVER SEEN A LEFT VICTORY ON THE FIRST ROUND AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, AND A REACTION OF FEAR RESULTING IN A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE LEFT ON THE SECOND ROUND IS JUST AS PLAUSIBLE AT THIS TIME AS A FURTHER PUSH IN FAVOR OF LEFT MOMENTUM. IN OTHER WORDS, HEDGE YOUR BETS.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

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